

HOUSE BILL 3687

By Tindell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,  
Chapter 3, relative to convenience voting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following new part and designating it as following:

PART 3 – CONVENIENCE VOTING

Section 2-3-301.

The purpose of this part is to create a pilot project to determine whether convenient voting centers could successfully be established for local and state elections to make it convenient for voters to vote at centralized voting areas in the county in which the voter is registered irrespective of the voter's precinct. The state election coordinator shall select one (1) or more municipalities that indicate willingness to participate in the convenient voting pilot project at their municipal elections to be held in 2009. A resolution adopted by a majority vote of the legislative body of each interested municipality shall be filed with the coordinator of elections by the date selected by the coordinator in order to be considered for participation in the pilot project. A copy of such resolution shall also be filed with the county election commission of the county where the municipality is located.

Section 2-3-302.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the state election coordinator, in collaboration with the county election commission where the municipality chosen for the pilot project is located, shall establish a program which allows the municipality to combine precincts or polling places or establish one (1) or more convenient voting centers for the municipal election scheduled for 2009.

(b) If convenient voting centers are used in such election, precinct polling places shall not also be used in that election.

(c) Each convenient voting center used in the pilot project shall have a secure electronic connection, certified by the coordinator of elections, to the computerized voter registration system maintained by the county election commission permitting all voting information processed by any computer at a convenient voting center to be immediately accessible to all other computers at all convenient voting centers in the municipality. Such secure electronic connection must be sufficient to prevent any voter from voting more than once and to prevent unauthorized access to the computerized voter registration system.

(d) Each convenient voting center shall meet all applicable federal and state laws including the Help America Vote Act accessibility requirements.

(e) The provisions of chapter 7 of this title apply to all convenient voting centers.  
Section 2-3-303.

The county election commission where any municipality participating in the pilot project is located, in consultation with the coordinator of elections, after taking into consideration all facts and circumstances, shall determine the number of convenient voting centers at such election. In no event shall there be less than one (1) convenient voting center for every fifteen thousand (15,000) registered voters or such other ratio established by the coordinator of elections in consultation with each such county election commission.

Section 2-3-304.

If the county election commission combines polling places, precincts or establishes one (1) or more convenient voting centers in their county, the county election commission shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation the location of the

convenient voting centers no less than thirty (30) days before the election. The county election commission shall mail to each voter whose polling place is changed a notice of the voter's new convenient voting center location. Furthermore, immediately after any establishment of a convenient voting center, the county election commission shall give written notification of such changes to the office of local government, comptroller of the treasury and to the coordinator of elections.

Section 2-3-305.

The provisions of T.C.A. § 2-3-107 shall apply to convenient voting centers.

Section 2-3-306.

The voting period for all convenient voting centers shall begin on the twentieth day before the day of the election and shall continue through the day of the election. Convenient voting centers shall be closed on all Sundays and state holidays in the voting period.

Section 2-3-307.

The county election commission office hours during the early voting period established pursuant to § 2-6-103 shall apply to the county election commission office hours during the early voting period under this act where any municipality that is participating in the pilot project created by this act is located.

Section 2-3-308.

The state election coordinator shall file a report with the state and local government committees of each house by January 31 following any municipal election conducted under the pilot project. The report shall contain the coordinator's evaluation of the pilot project together with his recommendations as to whether convenient voting centers should continue on a limited basis or whether they could be implemented statewide in all elections.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.